

Please add new Claims 50-55 as the following:

50. (New) An aperture in an microscopic X-ray fluorescence system

comprising:

an input end;

an output end;

an X-ray transparent vacuum seal at the output end; and

a tapered through passage connecting the input end and the output end, the input end connectable to an X-ray focusing element of the X-ray fluorescence system, the aperture to substantially block unfocused X-rays in the X-ray fluorescence system.

51. (New) A system according to claim 1, wherein the focusing element comprises capillary optics.

52. (New) A system according to claim 6, wherein the focusing element comprises capillary optics.

53. (New) An X-ray path according to claim 36, wherein the focusing element comprises capillary optics.

54. (New) A method according to claim 43, wherein the focusing element comprises capillary optics.